



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION  
PRESS SERVICE



WASHINGTON, D. C.

Release - Immediate

✓ May 21, 1935.

BURROWING SEA BIRDS GET  
GOAT ISLAND AWAY FROM SHEEP

---

Burrowing sea birds get first rights to their long-established breeding grounds on an island off the coast of Oregon, through President Roosevelt's recent Executive order creating a new wildlife sanctuary to be called the Goat Island Migratory Bird Refuge, says a statement by the U. S. Biological Survey. The refuge comprises 21 acres of public domain about a third of a mile off the shore of Curry County, Oreg.

Goat Island, says the Biological Survey, affords Cassin's auklets, Beal's petrels, and tufted puffins the only soil that these burrowing nesters can find on an island for many miles along the Oregon and California coast. Cormorants, murrelets, and western gulls nest on its rocky areas, and the island is also a fall and winter resting ground for wild geese. The refuge, says the Bureau, is particularly adapted to the needs of nesting birds as it lies far enough off shore to prevent natural enemies from reaching it.

Burrowing birds on the island, the Bureau explains, have been threatened in recent years because domestic sheep have been pastured there, and protests from local conservationists led to the establishment of the refuge. There have been no goats there for many years. By denuding the island, the sheep would have exposed its soil to disastrous erosion by wind and water that would have made it useless for the birds that nest in burrows.

2194-35